UNESCO

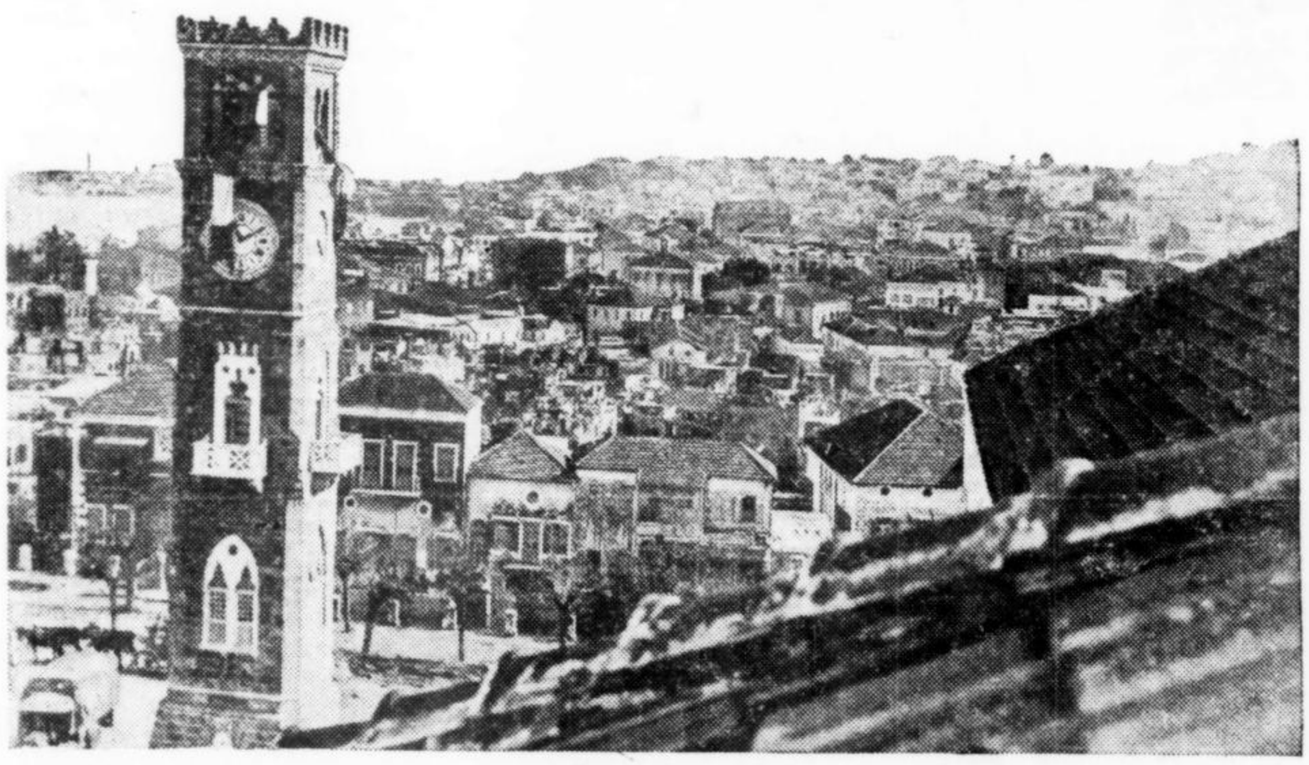
COURIER

PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Volume I.—No 10 | Price: 10 Cents (U.S.), 6 Pence (U.K.), or 20 Francs. | NOVEMBER 1948

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA RECEIVED FEB 17 1948 LIBRARY

CONFERENCE OPENS IN LEBANON November 17 th



General view of Beirut, site of Third Session of Unesco's General Conference scheduled to open this month.

AN estimated 1,500 delegates, official observers, members of the Secretariat, journalists and guests will gather in Beirut, Lebanon, on November 17, for the Third Session of Unesco's General Conference.

This annual assembly, devoted to the idea that the peoples of the world can live together in peace and understanding in spite of their differences by the international development of education, science and culture, is scheduled to meet for three and a half weeks to appraise Unesco's activities during 1948 and formulate a world programme of action for 1949 and succeeding years.

The Executive Board is submitting to the delegates for approval a programme covering a number of years and not merely a plan of work for the year 1949. This, it is hoped, will permit continuity in Unesco's programme and facilitate fuller understanding of the Organization's activities by Member States and the general public.

The Session will elect a new Director-General and seven members of the Executive Board, and will consider the annual report of the Director-General (reported elsewhere in this issue). Selected items of special significance in the 1948 programme and new activities proposed for 1949 are listed for discussion including a proposal for a Cultural Office in the Middle East.

The Beirut Conference will be formally opened in the afternoon of November 17, in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Lebanon, Sheik Bechara El-Khoury, and leading educational, scientific and cultural personalities of the host country. The ceremony will be presided over by the Head of the Mexican Delegation, His Excellency Senor Francisco del Rio y Cañedo, Mexican Ambassador to Paris, who will hand over the chair to a new president to be elected by the Conference.

H.E. Sheik Bechara El-Khoury, President of the Lebanon.

Invitations

Invitations to attend the Conference have been sent to the 44 Member States of Unesco. The other Specialized Agencies of the UN, 76 inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and 8 non-Member States of the UN or Unesco have also been invited to send official observers.

In addition, the Unesco Executive Board has cabled the Government of Ceylon, the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers in Japan as well as the Military Governors of the British, U.S. and French Occupation Zones of Germany to appoint observers to attend the Conference.

(Continued on Page 2)

What The Delegates Will Discuss in Beirut

UNDER the Constitution of Unesco, the Executive Board prepares the agenda and programme of work for the General Conference. The provisional agenda, which the Executive Board has worked out this year for the Third Session of the General Conference, may be summed up briefly as follows:

The opening ceremony will take place at three o'clock in the afternoon of November 17 in Beirut, with the Head of the Mexican delegation presiding. Prior to this, at 11 a.m. of the same day, there will be a formal ceremony of welcome arranged by the Lebanese Government.

Following the adoption of the agenda of the conference, the delegates will elect the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Third Session.

The Conference will then consider recommendations of the Executive Board on the admission of new Members.

Three Commissions will then be established for one of the most important jobs of the Conference:

(Continued on Page 2)

Dr. HUXLEY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR :

"The Advance Of World Civilization"

Just before this issue of the "Courier" was to go to press, the editors received an advance copy of the Introduction written by Dr. Julian Huxley, Director-General, to his annual report on the activities of the Organization in 1948. This Introduction is the personal report of Dr. Huxley. Below, our readers will find large extracts from this highly stimulating and provocative statement.

THIS is my personal report, which the Executive Board through its Chairman will present to the General Conference.

It is once again my own view of what Unesco has done—a gleam in the dark and disturbed waters of the world today—and of what, given good leadership and some luck, it may yet achieve—a stilling of the waters to a peace in which they might reflect the glory of the mind's inheritance for generations yet to come.

I make no apology for writing freely of my faith in the immense service which this Organization might render to humanity: otherwise I would not be here. As I hand over the reins, I have felt bound to affirm and set down, for comment and appraisal, what the work has meant to me.

In writing this report..., I have wished to present not only a résumé of the events of 1948, but some general appraisal of the Organization in the present state of its existence, together with some evaluation of its programme. While such an evaluation must, of necessity, be a purely personal one, in the majority of cases the views expressed have either the explicit backing of the Conference, or its implicit approval.

The first fact to be remembered is the extreme youthfulness of Unesco. As a definitive Organization, it is, at the time this report goes to press, only 21 months old; and its effective operation dates back only to a year and a half, to the time when the first programme and budget was agreed upon in April 1947.

While much can be surmounted by goodwill, time and practice, it is probably true that, in the present state of the world, no international staff can hope to attain quite the same degree of efficient co-operation that is possible to a homogeneous group (although of course the heterogeneity provides the necessary foundation for our ultimate ideal—an international group welded into a unified team).

I would also remind my readers that Unesco has so far been operating in a period of unusual political tension and financial stringency.

Any new organization, especially a large international one of great complexity and novel type such as Unesco, will find itself in its first years much preoccupied with problems of administration and internal organization. While Unesco still has many such preoccupations, I think it fair to say that it has now passed a critical point in its development. While 1947 was spent largely in trial and error, experiment and even sometimes improvisation, 1948 has seen the emergence of a more definite structure and assured continuity of operation.

Work in Germany

An important innovation in 1948 has been the extension of Unesco's activities to Germany, and the decision of the Executive to recommend to the Conference their further extension to Japan.

There has not unnaturally been a good deal of difficulty in agreeing on a programme for Germany, the nationals of some countries wishing Unesco to go much more slowly, those of others, much faster. A certain fact must be remembered. This is not part of our reconstruction campaign: we are undertaking work **in** Germany, not **for** Germany. We are attempting a reorientation of the Germans towards democracy and against all forms of aggressive nationalism and isolationism.

(Continued on Page 6)

◆ **Middle East Cultural Office. Page 2.**

◆ **Spotlight on Arab Thought. Page 3.**

◆ **Year's Roundup of Unesco's Activities, Centre Page.**

◆ **"Unesco In a Divided World". P. 7.**

◆ **Intellectual Activity in Arab World. P. 8.**

MacArthur Accepts Unesco Programme in Japan

GENERAL Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, has agreed to the extension of Unesco's programme to Japan as a result of recent discussions with Dr. Kuo Yu-Shou, Special Unesco adviser on Asia and the Far East.

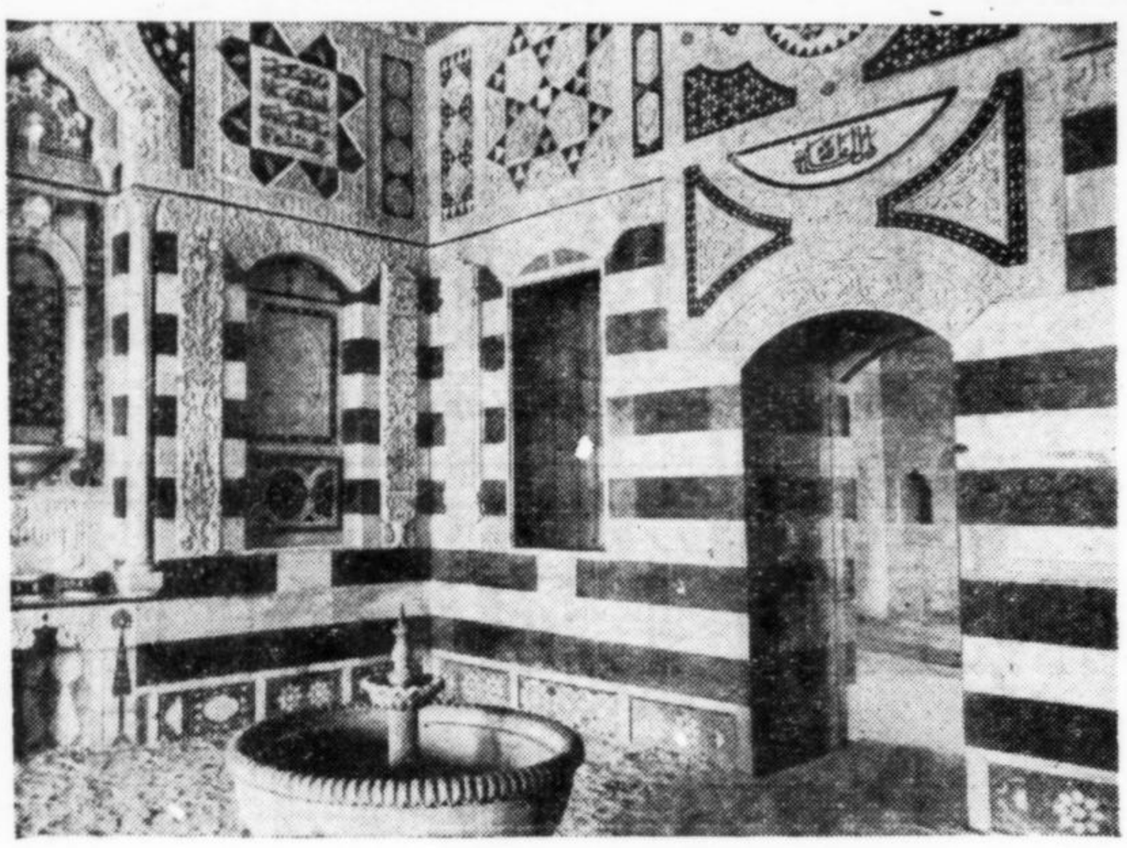
This announcement was made at Unesco House last month following the return to Paris of Dr. Kuo after a four-month visit to ten Far Easten countries, including Japan.

The Supreme Commander Allied Powers in his meeting with Dr. Kuo expressed complete agreement with a 10-point programme of development which urged that "every effort should be made to make Unesco known and understood to all levels of Japanese society", and "first priority should be that of encouraging, through SCAP (Supreme Commander Allied Powers), the Japanese people to study the philosophy, objectives and activities of Unesco, and of making available appropriate materials and documents which would contribute to a broad programme of education about Unesco".

"Japanese agencies", it stressed, "are eager to undertake the translation and publication of appropriate materials immediately. Selected materials are being re-printed in Japan at present".

General MacArthur requested the Organization to consider the establishment of a Unesco Office in Japan through which close relationship with SCAP and with the Japanese people might be developed.

(Continued on Page 7)



Middle East Cultural Liaison Office Proposed

WHEN the Third Session of the General Conference of Unesco meets in Beirut on November 17th, it will have before it a proposal from the Executive Board on the representation of Unesco in the main cultural areas of the world. One such area is the Middle East, and the proposal urges the creation of a Cultural Liaison Office for that area.

This suggestion tallies with the choice of the Middle East as the venue of the Conference for, by meeting in a different place each year, Unesco arouses interest in its work among the people of that and neighbouring areas and thereby helps its activities to spread.

Telling evidence of this can be seen in the fact that the meeting of last year's conference in Mexico has resulted in the creation and development of a number of significant projects by Unesco on the one hand and by the Governments of Latin America, on the other. Today, the countries and people of Latin America follow closely the work of Unesco and contribute to the development of its activities.

By
Victor AZAM,
Former News Chronicle correspondent in the Middle East. Now with the Unesco Secretariat.

Similarly, the Middle East presents a two-fold interest to Unesco just as Unesco presents a multifarious interest to the Governments and peoples of the Middle East.

As far as Unesco is concerned, one experiment has already produced sufficiently good results to warrant the encouragement of cultural liaison throughout the Middle East. The Unesco Field Science Co-operation Office which has been functioning in Cairo for over a year, has done valuable work in bringing Middle East scientists within the orbit of international science and putting within their reach the wealth of world knowledge.

Similarly, a Cultural Liaison Office if voted by the General Conference, would be called upon to play a leading role in the development and spread of education and culture. Although the Arabs are heirs to one of the world's great cultural possessions, handed down to them over centuries of eventful history, they find themselves today striving vigorously for a cultural rebirth which twentieth-century conditions generally, and their aloofness and isolation from the rest of the world, render more difficult. This aim can, consequently, be brought nearer to realization through international co-operation,—which is where Unesco can help.

In such countries as Egypt and Iraq, where the illiteracy rate is high, the problem facing the national education authorities is a very heavy one. It is, naturally, their concern in the first place. But it is undeniable that in co-operation with Unesco they can find solutions to their difficulties, through the technical assistance which the Organization can make available, in the same way as the Field Science Co-operation Offices are beginning to do.

It must be made clear that Unesco does not and cannot substitute itself for national administrative bodies, or interfere in their affairs. It can only arrange for expert help and advice to be provided when it is needed, making the best experience of one country available to another. This task should be made easier thanks to the Arab League Cultural Committee, which since its formation two years ago has done much to bring about closer ties between the Arab Governments in the cultural field.

In view of all these considerations, the Executive Board of Unesco decided to define the responsibility of the proposed Cultural Liaison Office for the Middle East as follows: "To promote the exchange of ideas, information, materials and persons in the fields of arts, letters, philosophy and humanistic studies."

The small staff to be assigned to this task, if the Cultural Office is approved, would initially spend several months at Unesco House in Paris and then travel throughout the Middle East. No fixed regional office is contemplated at this stage.

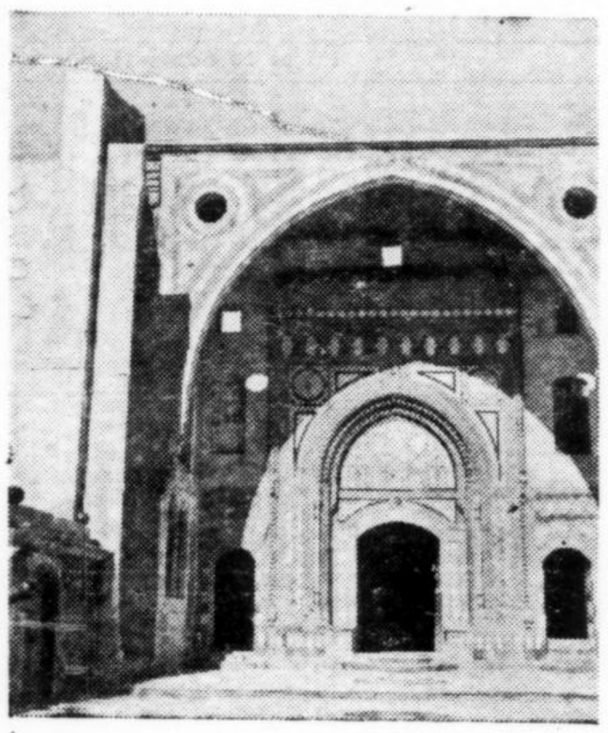
In addition to this experimental undertaking, the Executive Board also proposes to appoint, in areas to be determined by the General Conference, one or two regional representatives who will maintain liaison with the Governments and National Commissions, distribute information on the activities of Unesco, and represent Unesco at conferences and meetings convened by the UN and other agencies, in those areas.

Should these new activities of Unesco be sanctioned by the General Conference, there is no doubt that a step forward will have been taken spreading understanding and interchange of culture in a world which needs such action to achieve the goal of One World.

Conference in Lebanon

(Continued from Page 1)

Information received so far indicates that the delegations will be composed of some of the outstanding world's spokesmen in the fields of education, science and culture. Belgium and Afghanistan are sending their Ministers of Education as their chief envoys. The United Kingdom delegation will be headed by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Education, and will include the Chairman of the British Council. The chief Siamese delegate will be the Under Secretary of State for Education, while the U.S. group will include 10 outstanding scientific, educational and cultural leaders. It is expected that the Middle Eastern States will send some of their most distinguished representatives.



Above, the decorative portal of the famous Palais de Beiteddine in the Lebanon. Upper left, the decorated interior of the same Palais, showing the rich lace-work carvings executed by Arab artists.

The Palais is one of the architectural and artistic landmarks of the Middle East.

The Conference, which will meet in plenary sessions, commission, sub-commission and committee meetings has been streamlined so as to achieve a maximum of efficiency. Provision has been made for 22 plenary sessions with simultaneous translation, and the setting up of three main commissions to study the programme and budget of Unesco, administrative and personnel questions, and the official and external relations of the Organization.

Elaborate Preparations

In Beirut, the final touches are being put to the vast preparations which the Lebanese Government and people have been making to welcome delegates and all those attending the Conference. The buildings have now been completed and will be fully fitted out and furnished in time for the opening ceremony.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to give newspaper and radio correspondents every possible facility to cover the activities of the Session.

Some of the main streets of Beirut are being widened to permit easier access to the Conference site, located at about 10-minutes drive from the centre of the city.

The Lebanese Government is organizing a series of cultural manifestations for the special "Unesco Month" and a number of exhibitions are being set up, one of which feature Arab culture in general and that of the Lebanon in particular.

Altogether, the Lebanese Government is spending about three and a half million Lebanese pounds for the organization of the Beirut Conference and "Unesco Month".

During the course of the Conference, it should be noted, the Secretariat in Paris and members in the field will continue in full operation to carry out the programme of the Organization.

What The Delegates Will Discuss At Beirut

(Continued from Page 1.)

The Programme and Budget Commission will study a selected number of items from the 1948 programme and new activities proposed for the new year. Among those provisionally listed for discussion mention might be made of the preparation of a Scientific and Cultural History of Mankind; Unesco's contribution to Reconstruction through direct emergency grants out of the Organization's funds and stimulation of gifts by Member States; the Book Coupon Scheme, Unesco's role in furthering international social science organizations, Clearing House functions as the central activity of Unesco in General and Fundamental Education, etc.

The Administrative Commission will examine the organization of the Secretariat, personnel and financial questions.

The Official and External Relations Commission will report to the Conference on Unesco's activities with Member States (including regional offices), National Commissions, the UN and Specialized Agencies, and other international organizations.

Eight sub-commissions will then be set up to consider certain technical aspects of the programme.

Following this, the Chairman of the Executive Board, Dr. E.R. Walker, will present to the Assembly for discussion the Directors-General's report on Unesco's activities this year. The Assembly will then proceed to a consideration of the reports for 1948 presented by Member States.

At this point in the Conference (Item 13 of the provisional agenda), the delegates will discuss the final reports of the Programme and Budget Commission and vote the total figure of the budget for 1949.

The Conference will then appoint the new Director-General of Unesco, and elect seven members of the Executive Board.

Other items included in the provisional agenda include a discussion of the season of the year in which the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the Conference are to be held; the choice of the place of the Fourth Session and provisional consideration of the place of the Fifth; the presentation of draft amendments to the Constitution by Ecuador, New Zealand and the Director-General; and a discussion of selected items of general significance, such as the role and problems of education, science and culture in the modern world.

Radio Experts Meet at Unesco House

A Conference of Radio experts opened at Unesco House on October 28, and will continue until November 3.

The Conference has been called to examine and advise on possible action to encourage the co-operation of radio organizations in the production of cultural programmes, and to bring to light the character of existing arrangements for international relays, rebroadcasts and the use of transcriptions.

Radio experts from sixteen countries are attending the conference. They include Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

World Engineers Plan Cairo Meeting

The World Engineering Conference (WEC), one of the international organizations enjoying consultative status with Unesco, is calling a second International Technical Congress in Cairo during March, 1949, following an invitation extended by the Egyptian Government.

The Conference, which will be devoted to the main subject of Raw Materials as an Industrial and Social Problem, will study three problems:

Industrial raw materials and their rational utilization throughout the world; social aspects of technical development and of raw material problems; and the problem of water in the Middle East.

It is expected that the Cairo Congress will furnish some basic information, in its study of water, on one of the crucial problems of the Middle East. Irrigation, drainage, navigation, drinking water and artificial rain will be some of the problems discussed at the meetings.

The Executive Board of WEC has borne in mind that the Economic and Social Council of the UN is calling an International Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources (UNSCCUR) in the USA in June 1949. The programme of the Cairo Congress has been established so as to complement the UNSCCUR programme.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The UNESCO COURIER is published monthly in English, French and Spanish by the Public Information Bureau of Unesco.

6-month subscription: 2 s. 6 d. or $0.50 or Fr. frs. 100.

Please write to the Unesco agent indicated below for your country, or directly to Unesco House, 19 Avenue Kléber, Paris-16e, France.

Argentina: Editorial Sudamericana S.A., Alsina 500, Buenos-Aires.
Australia: H. A. Goddard Ltd. 255a, George St., Sydney.
Canada: The Ryerson Press, 299 Queen St. West, Toronto.
Cuba: La Casa Belga, R. de Smedt O'Reilly, Habana.
Czechoslovakia: Librairie F. Topic, 11 Narodni, Prague.
Denmark: Einar Munksgaard, 6 Nörregade, Copenhagen.
Great Britain: H.M. Stationery Office: **London:** York House, Kingsway (Retail Counter Service); P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. (Post orders). — **Manchester 2:** 39/41 King Street — **Edinburgh 2:** 13a Castle Street — **Cardiff:** 1 St. Andrew's Crescent. — **Bristol 1:** Tower Lane — **Belfast:** 80 Chichester Street.
France: Editions A. Pedone, 13 Rue Soufflot, Paris, 5e.
Greece: Eleftheroudakis, Librairie Internationale, Athens.
India: Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi.
Iraq: Mackenzie and Mackenzie, Booksellers, The Bookshop, Baghdad.
Lebanon and Syria: Librairie universelle, Av. des Français, Beirut.
Low Countries: N.V. Martinus Nijhoff, Afd., Fondsaministratie 9 Lange Voorhout, The Hague.
Sweden: Ab. C. E. Fritzes, Fredsgatan 2, Stockholm.
Switzerland: Librairie Payot, Lausanne.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARAB THOUGHT

Taha Hussein Calls Unesco "Common Man-Elite Link"

AS the month of November of this year draws to a close, the Arab World will witness in Beirut a great festival of culture never before equalled in all its glorious and far-reaching history.

The Arab peoples have not forgotten the cultural meetings which they held centuries ago, in their market - places - meetings which paved they way for the union of the Arab nation. Nor are they unaware of the fact that other ancient nations used to hold similar cultural meetings which gave similar results.

The Arab World knows that, although the effect of these meetings was limited, yet, at the same time, they helped to create national unity on the one hand and, on the other, emphasized the individual characteristics of each nation and defined the frontiers between them.

These meetings, making nations conscious of their individuality, gave them self-confidence and helped them to realize what distinguished them from others. Thus, they were at the same time a source of unity and of separation. Owing to them, the Arabs began, at the end of the pre-islamic period (called the "Age of Ignorance"), to realize their own importance, and they felt the differences between themselves and their neighbours just as the Greeks, owing to their Academies, learned what ties linked together their various cities and realized at the same time what distinguished them from other nations and communities.

Cultural Festivals

Besides, the Arab World is no stranger to the congresses to which mankind is to-day accustomed and which are held from time to time to examine varied problems: political, literary, philosophical or artistic congresses. Nevertheless, the Arab World felt that these congresses, owing to their composition and their particular aim, were not of general or universal interest but were limited to specialists in certain realms of knowledge or in certain branches of art or political and social science.

The Arab World took part in these congresses, often held in Europe and America, and sometimes in their own land. But never in their own land has a festival of culture been seen on so large a scale and so extensive in its aims as that which they will attend in Beirut.

The Unesco session which is to hold its conferences in Beirut this year, is neither a cultural congress such as those of old, which had to unite on one hand and divide on the other; nor is it a scientific, artistic or political congress such as those which the modern world has witnessed and the direct benefit of which is exclusively limited to specialists and only effects nations indirectly.

It is rather a cultural and human assembly in the widest sense of these two words: "cultural" because it is not composed of specialists in one particular science, but of all those who are distinguished in different branches of culture; and "human" since it is not composed of those who represent a particular country or different countries united by common interests and common aims, but is composed of men who represent the cultural circles of all the nations of the world.

Moreover, it does not aim, in its conferences to examine only limited problems of science or art; its object is something more extensive and of a deeper purport: that is, the realization of co-operation amongst various nations in all matters concerning the intellect, the heart and the conscience of mankind.

Thus, this Organization is uniting nations that are divided, drawing nearer those who want to live apart, trying to help them to live and think in closer relationship with others, and to abolish differences and discord as far as is in its power.

The aim of the ancient cultural "market-gatherings" in Arabia was to try to unite one nation, but this new Organization is endeavouring to unite all humanity.

* * *

It is true that the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations had already tried, between the last two wars, to perform the task which Unesco is trying nowadays to accomplish. But its efforts were weak because its means were limited, as it did not enjoy the same independence, power and financial facilities as Unesco.

In spite of its meagre privileges, however, the previous organization succeeded to a certain extent in drawing together nations separated by discord and in achieving a significant degree of cultural co-operation. It founded the Committee of Arts and Letters, a body which organized meetings every year in a different capital of Europe, to examine the cultural problems of that time. But these meetings, and discussions, remained narrow and limited so that they did not go beyond the distinguished intellectual leaders and reach the general public.

Reaching the Man-in-the-Street

Unesco, on the contrary, has attached great importance, ever since its foundation, to getting in touch with the man-in-the-street much more than with an intellectual elite; or rather, it has laboured to create a solid and fruitful link between that intellectual elite and the general public. This link allows leaders of culture to study problems of interest to all individuals, and helps the public to profit fully by these ideas.

The Committee of Arts and Letters founded by the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations did not go beyond Europe, and did not even meet outside its assembly-rooms in great cities, because its principles and methods of research, discussion and argument were above the level of people of average culture.

Unesco is fixed in Paris through its permanent Organization, but by its action and its public meetings radiates in all parts of the world.

Moreover, when Unesco meets in a particular country, it achieves two considerable aims: it encourages different forms of cultural co-operation between governments and scientific, literary or artistic bodies; and it narrows the gap which often separates the man-in-the-street from the technical expert and the intellectual specialist.

Thus, it is not strange that Unesco and those who support it or seek its protection in a direct or indirect way should be striving for that peace amongst nations which may, at the moment, seem too difficult of fulfilment, but which is without doubt possible if genuine collaboration based on goodwill and sincere understanding can be mobilized.

If this Organization had no other aim than that of trying, in every act and every conference, to make nations feel that all forms of culture and all products of the human intellect, heart and conscience are totally independent of geographical frontiers and are not influenced by material interests, or monopolized by any single nation or cultural area; if it rendered no other service than this, it would still deserve to be helped by all nations and supported by all governments.

(Continued on Page 7)

Dr. Taha Hussein was born in Egypt in 1889 and became blind at the age of three. In spite of this serious handicap, he has become one of the major living figures in Arabic literature. He is considered as representative of modern thought in the Middle East and the spiritual leader of youth in the Orient.

Taha Hussein was educated at the University of Egypt and at the Sorbonne in Paris. He successively occupied the Chair of Arab Literature at the Faculty of Letters in Cairo, became Dean of this Faculty, the First Rector of the University of Alexandria and later Under-Secretary of State at the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

He is a member of the Royal Academy of Arabic Language, of the Egyptian Institute and of the Academy of Belles Lettres. Taha Hussein was also the Egyptian representative to the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations and at many international congresses.

A typical Middle East landmark: the minaret.

A PHILOSOPHER LOOKS AT

Arab Literature Among World Classics

AS already reflected by Arabic journals and reviews, the international cultural event in Beirut this month awakens in the Arab peoples distant memories of the cultural festivals of "Okaz", perhaps the first ever held, when in the pre-Islam era the nomad tribes of Arabia met annually to appreciate and gauge the genius of their respective poets.

In these annual literary competitions and in other circumstances, many of the poets composed their verse extempore. This was the so-called Era of Ignorance, because no written alphabet yet existed. Poets of all beliefs, pagans, Christians and Jews, thus produced the first literary masterpieces in the Arab tongue; they were incomparable in their chiselled perfection of form and classic style. Outstanding among all these works were the al-Mouallakat", odes.

Here we have Arab literature in all its purity, free of foreign influences. Those who know it best, Orientalists, are firmly convinced of the importance of making it known alongside the world's classics. Unesco is working in this direction in its plans for a wider diffusion of world classics.

By
Dr. S. ELFANDI,
Professor of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Farouk I, Alexandria. Now with the Philosophy and Humanistic Studies Division of Unesco.

It is not possible here to give an outline of Arab literature, which is one of the richest and oldest and still one of the most creative in the world. Let us limit ourselves, therefore, to some of the features of the second great period of Arab literature, the Islamic Period.

The Islamic Period

The coming of Islam gave an enormous impetus to Arab literature. Was not the exceptional eloquence of the Koran the one "miracle" of the Prophet? No doubt it suited the mentality of nomadic tribes who felt themselves to be poets. Its influence was therefore very strong. But unlike the purely Arab age of "Ignorance", the Islamic period was genuinely "international"; it was also truly "humanistic" in the sense that it assimilated the values, ideals and knowledge of the finest civilizations of the past.

Internationalism and humanism are the two points of contact between Unesco's aims and Arab culture. That culture is already tinged with universalism, so that Unesco's beneficent influence in this part of the world will be the most easily exerted.

After the spread of the new religion, the nomads, who had become civilized citizens of large towns extending from China to the Atlantic, revealed great understanding for other civilizations and an extraordinary capacity to assimilate their values. Indian, Persian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman culture filtered in side by side and formed the civilization henceforth to be called "Moslem" rather than "Arab". The only Arab element is the instrument of thought, the Arabic language, which thereby became one of the first international languages.

The extreme richness of this literature, which urges humanists to make it known to a world public, is not due solely to the fact that it is international, thereby reflecting the different mentalities which together contributed to the progress of literature, but also to the fact that it reflects the soul steeped in and civilized by all the different philosophies and sciences known to the enlightened and refined Middle Ages. The works of Al-Djahiz, Al-Mutanabi or Al-Maarri are unrivalled from this aspect.

For example, in his Rissalat al-Ghofran", the direct source of Dante's Divine Comedy, Al-Maarri transports us to a Paradise where we listen to the subtlest philosophic and scientific discussions of that time. It was the period of the incomparable encyclopedists. Very many authors have left behind, each in his own handwriting. 400, 500 or 600 books, many of them consisting of 10, 20 or 30 volumes. These classics will occupy a most important place among the others, once they are made known in foreign languages.

Some of the great literary works of this period were either translated from foreign languages or written partly in popular Arabic. **An example is "Kalila and Dimna", translated by Ibnul-Mokafaa from Sanskrit. Never in the history of Arabic has literary style reached such a degree of clarity and nobility as in this writer.**

The above-mentioned work, which is a collection of fables, fully deserves a distinguished place among world classics, because unlike those of Aesop and La Fontaine, these fables are composed as syntheses in novel form, and not as fragmentary anecdotes. The characters are human beings, animals being used only to personify human qualities.

The writings in popular Arabic include the Arabian Nights and al-Mouachahat of Andalusia. The latter poems, which break with the traditional rules of Arab versification, are specially suitable for translation, owing to the light they throw on the origins of French literature (the Troubadours).

Modern Arab Literature

Modern Arab literature dates from the end of the nineteenth century. The Lebanese, who were already more conversant with European culture, were pioneers in the movement. Men such as al-Bustani, al-Yazidji, Zidan and Matran, were the first of the modernists. But it is in Egypt that modernism is bearing its fruit and being fostered. More familiar with the Arab classics, through the existence of the University of Al-Azhar, and at the same time strongly attracted towards European culture, this country has produced famous writers such as Ismail Sabry, Chawki (prince of poets) Hafez, al-Manfalouti, Taha Hussein, al-Akkad, Hussein Haikal, Taimour and Tawfik el Hakim, whose works are celebrated throughout the Arab world and who introduced new themes and forms unthought of in earlier periods.

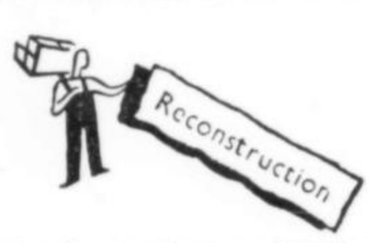
Cairo has thus become the natural literary capital of this part of the world. The printing-works of Cairo, Beirut, and other intellectual centres are constantly publishing ancient and modern works.

(Continued on Page 7)

YEAR'S ROUNDUP OF UNESCO ACTIV

Educational, Scientific and Cultural RECONSTRUCTION

"It is estimated that by the end of 1948 over $50,000,000 will have been distributed in educational relief by various bodies, in most cases in response to Unesco's campaign for educational reconstruction. Furthermore, nearly $400,000 will have been expended out of Unesco funds for emergency equipment" writes Dr. Huxley in his annual report on the activities of Unesco during the current year. This report which has just been published has served as the basis for the "Year Roundup" which we are presenting on this page.



IN order to advance educational, scientific and cultural reconstruction in the war-devastated countries, Unesco has been working during 1948, with the organs of the UN and other Specialized Agencies and with international non-governmental bodies by providing the Secretariat for TICER. Unesco has collected and analyzed evidence of needs and stimulated campaigns for voluntary aid. It has provided books, materials and equipment to a limited extent through emergency grants, and aided in establishing national book exchange centres. It has worked with organizations on the educational problems of war-handicapped children and on voluntary work camps.

This year, for example, the Director-General points out in his annual report to the General Conference that "members of the Secretariat have undertaken field surveys of educational, scientific and cultural needs in Burma, China, India, Malaya, Sarawak, North Borneo, the Philippines and Malta".

"The Governments of Austria, Belgium, Burma, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan and the Philippines have submitted... data on war-damaged schools, museums, laboratories, libraries, and other cultural institutions."

This information has been analyzed, prepared in document form and distributed to interested Member States and national organizations active in educational reconstruction.

"In consultation with Unesco", the Director-General reports, "the Provisional Commission of the IRO currently is investigating the educational needs of displaced persons in Germany, Austria and Italy."

Campaign aids

During the current year, Unesco has continued to produce materials suitable for national campaigns. These include the second volume of the "book of needs", to be published before the end of 1948; the monthly "Reconstruction Newsletter" in English, French and Spanish; illustrated pamphlets such as "The Universities in Need", published in August, and "Improvisations in the Teaching of Science".

In addition, a documentary film on the reconstruction of universities (in production jointly with the World Student Fund) is to be released before the end of the year.

A series of radio broadcasts on the reconstruction programme for 1948 and international Voluntary Work Camps has been recorded in French, English, Spanish, Polish and Arabic and distributed through the UN Radio Service, Radiodiffusion Française and the BBC.

Donor Organizations

The US Commission for International Educational Reconstruction (CIER) has distributed educational supplies, books, periodicals, fellowships and study grants estimated at $39,714,400 in 1947 and $43,098,400 in 1948.

The Canadian Council for Reconstruction through Unesco: Donation: $1,000,000 ($25,000 for direct expenditure by Unesco).

"Very particular efforts have been made", Dr. Huxley states, "to ensure adequate co-operation by Unesco in the task of the UN Appeal for Children".

As a result of these efforts the following sums have been set aside for educational reconstruction:

Lord Mayor of London	£ 60,000
Canada	$ 1,000,000
Norway	$ 100,000

Expected (France, Switzerland, Bolivia, Venezuela).

Emergency Purchase Programme

"The General Conference", writes Dr. Huxley, "in recognizing the emergency situation which exists in war-devastated countries with regard to lack of books educational materials and scientific and technical equipment, authorized funds to be spent to purchase materials and equipment for distribution.

From unexpended 1947 funds, a supplementary grant of $220,000 and $175,000 from the 1948 budget have been used to distribute educational materials to China, Poland, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Philippines, Italy and Hungary

War Handicapped Children

The Secretariat has been collecting and disseminating information on the educational problems of war-handicapped children In July, Unesco sponsored the Conference of Directors of Children's Villages which met at Pestalozzi Village in Trogen, Switzerland. A special publication will be available before the end of 1948 on Children's Communities.

Voluntary Work Camps

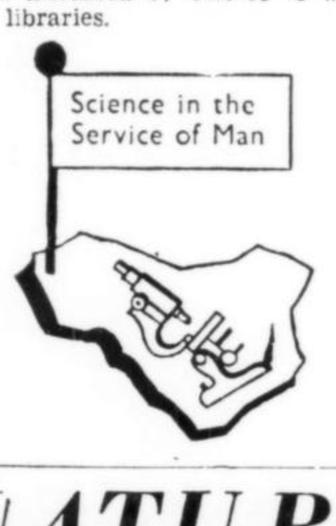
During the current year, Unesco furnished 250 to 300 books on international subjects to 27 camps in eleven countries. A conference of voluntary work camp organizations was held in Unesco House in April 1948 to discuss proposals of the TICER Work Camp Committee for the co-ordination of activities. A pamphlet on work camps and their value in international understanding was published in July.

Clearing House of Books

Referring to the importance of collecting accurate information on needs and sources of supply of publications, Dr. Huxley states:

"One of the main factors enabling Unesco to carry out this function successfully is the publication and distribution of the Unesco Bulletin for Libraries. The Bulletin is now a well-established international library service It has been issued every month since April, 1947, contains 40 pages, is bi-lingual and is distributed... to about 6,500 institutions."

The file of periodicals, offered or wanted, for free distribution or exchange, now covers aproximately 3,440 titles. By mid-July 545 sets of scientific periodicals (comprising about 4,466 volumes), and 20,644 miscellaneous publications were allocated by Unesco to war-hit libraries.



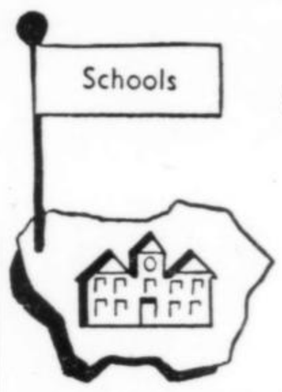
Exchange of Persons in 1948

IN summing up the Organization's exchange of persons programme activities for 1948, Dr. Huxley writes:

"Unesco is developing an active centre of information on all types of international educational interchange, especially opportunities for international study financed by governments, public and private agencies and individuals".

This year a questionnaire was sent to Member States, the UN and its Agencies and non-governmental bodies. The data collected is to be incorporated into a "world-wide register of all types of awards or assistance available for persons wishing to go abroad for educational purposes". The first issue to be published Jan. 49.

Unesco fellowship programme up to and including September 1948, comprises 60 direct-grant fellowships and 125 fellowships in collaboration with donor organizations "The most notable development during 1948 in this collaboration in fellowship administration has been with the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through Unesco, which has recently offered 64 'Canada-Unesco' fellowships for candidates from about 15 Member States".



Emph on Educ Clearing House Pr

A SHIFT of emphasis has taken place progressively this year. Thus the main undertaking of Unesco in Education is a clearing-house activity.

"It is felt", Dr. Huxley reports, "that by creating a central service to provide technical information and advice on education at all levels and by publicizing new and interesting national achievements in all parts of the world, educational advance will be rendered not only more rapid, but more of an international venture, and new standards will gradually be set up."

Fundamental Education

"This policy", Dr. Huxley continues, "has been especially emphasized in Fundamental Education".

"A programme is being submitted for 1949", the Director-General reveals, "that will give increased emphasis to central clearing-house services. It may be necessary to consider afresh, in the light of this year's experience, what are the most valuable contributions that Unesco can make to a pilot project".

"Our general policy is now becoming increasingly devoted to encouraging Member States to link projects in Fundamental Education with Unesco's work, under the head of **Associated Projects.**

Pilot Projects

1) Haiti: Unesco-appointed social anthropologist (Alfred Metraux) began basic survey in Marbial Valley in April. Support by Viking Fund (anthropological work) and Rockefeller Foundation (develop use of visual education techniques in Fundamental education). WHO and FAO agreed to co-operate with Unesco and Haitian Government. President of Haiti invited UN to make survey of economic, agricultural, health and educational conditions of whole country. Unesco representative appointed to UN team.

"The most important conclusion coming out of the preliminary investigations was that the Haiti Project was a long-term one which could not be expected to show results of permanent value in less than five to ten years", the Director-General reports.

"The idea", he continues, "that the UN and its Specialized Agencies might undertake a combined project in Haiti opens up very interesting possibilities".

2) **China:** Unesco consultant advising general fundamental education programmes of the Chinese Government, co-ordinating efforts of several agencies, Chinese, international and foreign.

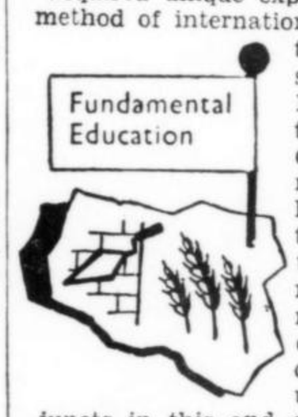
3) **East Africa:** project going slowly—basic surveys completed; buildings are under construction; consultant gathering materials for clearing-house.

4) **Peru:** development of rural arts and crafts to raise social and economic level of population. Mexican sociologist with a knowledge of art, sent to Peru by Unesco to make survey and determine advisability for a full-scale pilot project.

Educational Seminars

"Among Unesco's most successful activities in 1948", Dr. Huxley states, "are to be reckoned the three educational Seminars in Czechoslovakia, the U.K. and the U.S.A.". These were: Childhood Education, Education and Training of Teachers and Teaching about the U.N. and its Agencies (the lastnamed arranged in co-operation with UN). In addition the Pan-American Union was aided in organizing a regional Seminar on the Educational Problems of Latin America.

"Unesco has, by means of the Seminars", states Dr. Huxley "acquired unique experience in a method of international co-operation that is still novel." Elsewhere the Director-General remarks: "We hope that the international Seminar method may become one of Unesco's most valuable adjuncts in this and other fields".



Higher and Adult Education

A) Work with Universities: Universities conference held in Utrecht, Netherlands, during August. "It was possible", Dr. Huxley writes, "to shed light from many different angles on the problems besetting universities in all parts of the world The success of the discussions encouraged the Conference to take preliminary steps towards setting up a permanent international organization of Universities. This will be of the greatest importance

NATURAL SCIENCES

"In Natural Sciences", Dr. Huxley writes, "perhaps the most outstanding event has been the establishment of the first international regional research institute under the auspices of a UN organization in the shape of the Institute of the Hylean Amazon, to undertake research and surveys on problems of the wet tropics (equatorial forest zone)".

"As a result of a conference held at Iquitos, Peru, in April and May, a draft convention and first year's budget for the Institute were agreed upon, and an Interim Commission set up, with headquarters at Manaus. Preliminary pilot surveys for the Institute are now being undertaken by Unesco in the Rio Huallaga."

Field Science Co-operation Offices

"The Principle of regional field offices", the Director-General reports, "has justified itself, and is beginning to yield valuable results in raising the level of scientific activity in the regions concerned, as well as setting a pattern for field operation in other domains."

* *Latin America:* Occupied chiefly with creation of Hylean Amazon Institute. "However, it has continued to make various contacts in the region, and has participated in the expert conference held in Montevideo under the joint sponsorship of Unesco and the Government of Uruguay, which has made important recommendations on the development of science in the Latin American region."

* *Middle East (Cairo):* Office has been very active. "It has found that the establishment of scientific contacts within the region is as important as that of contacts between the Middle East and other regions. Its List of Scientific Works published in the Middle East is the first publication of any of Unesco's FSCOs."

* *East Asia* (Nanking, bramch office in Sanghai): "Responsibility for distributing UNRRA educational engineering equipment. Over 400 tons of supplies allocated. 90 % delivered to Chinese universities by August."

* *South Asia* (New Delhi): established in April. Very favourably received.

Grants-in-Aid

Pure and Applied Sciences

"As in 1947, a considerable sum was set aside for grants-in-aid to ICSU (the International Council of Scientific Unions) and its constituent bodies.

"The field of medical science is one which interests both Unesco and WHO. In this joint activity considerable progress has been made, in regard to the international co-ordination of Medical Science Abstracting and of Medical Science Congresses."

Preservation of Nature

The international Union for the Protection of Nature was founded at a conference called by the French Government in September and October. A Unesco Technical Conference on this subject is scheduled to follow the UNSCCUR conference in May 1949.

World Centre Of Scientific Liaison

In 1948, Unesco continued its clearing-house activities. Requests for assistance range from information on new indexes of mathematical tables for vitamins and chemical compounds to questions from scientific institutions on how to set up a microfilm unit.

"Within its limited resources", Dr. Huxley points out, "Unesco is developing an information centre on scientific apparatus to answer enquiries from the Field Science Co-operation Offices and elsewhere and what types of apparatus are available."

IVITIES

phasis lucation Programme

to Unesco in the field of higher education.

B) **Adult Education:** Preparatory work has been carried out this year for world conference on adult education in 1949. Pamphlet on "Unesco and Adult Education" completed and ready for publication. Material for an "International Directory of Adult Education" being collected; to be published probably early in 1949.

Children and Youth

"A major responsibility of Unesco, as the educational organization of the UN network, is to provide materials and advice for the teaching of international understanding in schools" A wide range of activities has been carried on. A report on all Unesco activities in this field has been printed and submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Two international poster and essay contests on Unesco on theme "Together we build a new world" launched for children 12-15 and 15-18 years. Winners are to be announced next year. Two pamphlets published to interest both age-groups in Unesco's work: "Let's Visit Unesco House" and "You and Unesco".

New Organizations Created in 1948

During 1948, Unesco helped the creation of a number of important international non-governmental organizations, in specialized fields, such as those of Universities, Political Science, Mental Health, Sociology, Economics, Scientific, Abstracting.

Other important organizations created with Unesco's help are: The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, the International Theatre Institute, the International Union for the Protection of Nature.

Achievements In the Social Sciences

IN the Social Sciences, "the most important single advance in 1948", writes Dr. Huxley in his annual report, "has been made in relation to the **Tensions Project...** Representative research organizations in the field of public opinion are conducting surveys designed to bring out the ideas of the general public in various nations, on their own country and culture and those of other nations... Special mention must be made of the first **International Congress on Mental Health,** which Unesco attended and to which it made a considerable financial contribution. Continuing co-operation is assured with the permanent body set up, the World Federation for Mental Health".

Unesco's activities in this field may be briefly summarized as follows:

Tensions Affecting International Understanding

1. **Pilot Monographs of "Way of Life"** in France, Norway, Poland and Switzerland are being prepared. To be published in English and French, and if possible in language of country concerned. Work carried out in collaboration with International Studies Conference (ISC).

2. **Surveys of adult populations** to determine their concepts of their own and other nations are being conducted by public opinion institutes in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, UK and USA.

3. **Techniques for changing mental attitudes:** Memoranda have been prepared by Anna Freud, the New Education Fellowship (USA), the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations (UK), the Danish Folk High School, the International School of Geneva, the Jung Institute (Switzerland), and ten research groups in the U.S. working jointly.

4. **Aggressive Nationalism:** In July, psychologists, sociologists, psychiatrists, psychoanalysts from Brazil, France, Hungary, Norway, UK and USA met to discuss influences encouraging aggressive tendencies. 1,500-word unanimous statement issued and widely distributed by Unesco.

Secretariat has prepared memoranda on the cultural assimilation of immigrants, and the effects of education on the occupational structure of countries.

Methods in Political Science

1. Preparatory work for symposium in 1949. Collection of papers during 1948 written by outstanding scholars on standards and methods employed in current political science.

2. Preliminary work for proposed International Political Science Association.

Preparatory work in 1948 on promotion of groups in Member States to discuss social implications of science. Suggested subjects: tele-communications, aviation, scientific improvements in agriculture, substitute products in applied chemistry and genetics.

Mass Communications

"The main new feature in the field of Mass Communications", the Director-General states in his annual report, "has been the creation of the 'Projects Division' (originally styled the International Ideas Bureau).

"Themes for world presentation have been decided on and worked out, and contracts made with the existing Mass Communications agencies who are co-operating in presenting the material. Priority is given to radio, as yielding the most immediate results, but press and film are not being neglected."

One of the projects presented in concrete detail by the Projects Division (organized in June 1948) is the publication of a Unesco Calendar of World Affairs, containing anniversaries of important figures and events in education, science and culture, international co-operation and human progress. It is intended as a reference book for writers, editors and producers and will also aid school and discussion groups. The Calendar will be ready for publication by the spring of 1949 and will apply to the year 1950.

The Projects Division has also prepared draft international film lists on International Understanding and Co-operation; Fundamental Education (including elementary hygiene, public health and agriculture); the Arts; and the Popularization of Science. When revised and edited the lists will be made available for publication in all countries for the use of producers, distributors and educational film users.

Technical Needs

The 1948 surveys were extended to 17 additional countries, largely in Latin America and the Far East; Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela in Latin America; Burma, India, Pakistan, Malaya and Singapore in the Far East; Austria, Hungary and Italy in Europe. The results are being published in English and French. The 1947 surveys were highly praised at the UN Conference on Freedom of Information at Geneva.

Free Flow of Information

The Secretariat has prepared a draft analysis of the political, economic, financial, technical and professional obstacles to (1) access to sources of information, (2) publication of information of foreign origin or affecting foreign countries, (3) transmission of unpublished information from one country to another, and (4) dissemination of published information from one country to another.

Unesco collaborated fully with the Economic and Social Council in the preparation for the UN Conference on Freedom of Information and of the Press and in the conference itself. "Unesco upheld a distinctive line of policy at the conference, stressing the need for a balance between freedom on the one hand and responsibility and control on the other.

"Resolutions were passed favourable to Unesco's work in the Survey of Technical Needs, conclusions concerning newsprint shortage, and the proposal to set up an International Institute of Press and Information."

Cultural Interchange

In Arts, Letters, Philosophy, Museums

DURING the current year, Unesco's cultural Interchange programme has achieved notable success in Arts and Letters, Philosophy and Humanities, and Museums.

I. — Arts and Letters

A. International Theatre Institute: established at Prague in June 1948. A draft formal agreement between Unesco and the I.T.I. wille be submitted to the Beirut Conference for approval.

B. International Music Institute: Preliminary work in 1948.

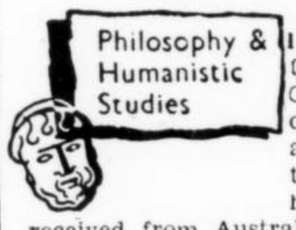
C. International Pool of Literature: 332 reviews have been contacted so far and 157 answers received of which 136 favoured the idea of encouraging the flow of published and unpublished articles betveen reviews in different parts of world. The response has been particularly favourable from Indian and Chinese reviews.

D. Reproductions in Visual Arts and Music: Particular attention was given during 1948 to (1) European painting from 1860 to the present day; (2) Italian Renaissance painting; (3) Persian Art. Catalogues of these periods are in preparation and will be ready for publication before the end of the year.

"The Secretariat is also engaged" Dr. Huxley reports, "in stimulating the production of special folios of fine colour reproductions: 25 folios of fresco paintings in Vatican; folios of Italian Renaissance paintings by Italian Government; Persian Art folios by English publishers. "Publishers appear particularly eager to undertake this work." the Director-General concludes.

In music, a Committee of Experts meeting in Paris in July, recommended setting up a centre to establish a general index of classical Western music, and the possibility of establishing specialized catalogues of Eastern music and folk music in general. "First contacts," Dr. Huxley says, "with record producers, institutions collecting commercial or scientific records, and musicologists have already resulted in the collection of a considerable amount of information. Certain sections of the general catalogue will be ready for publication in 1949."

II. — Philosophy and Humanities



A. Translation of Great Books: Official lists of works suitable for translation have been received from Australia, Belgium Canada and the U.K., together with suggestions from the P.E.N. Club and other organizations and individuals. Plans for ensuring adequate translation of contemporary works in literature, philosophy and the social and natural sciences are being developed. A questionnaire was sent in March for information from leading publishers on the present conditions of book translations. A report on the subject was submitted to ECOSOC in June.

B. The International Institute of Philosophy has, under the terms of its contract with Unesco, secured publication of articles in special issues of leading philosophic journals on the same topics as those discussed at the Unesco-sponsored round-table meetings in Amsterdam during August. Subjects: "Philosophic basis of humanism", "The basis of freedom", and "Philosophic bases of the various concepts of democracy".

C. International Council for Philosophic and Humanistic Studies: A Preparatory Commission for the Council has already been organized with representatives of the International Academic Union, International Committee for Historical Sciences, Permanent International Committee of Linguists, International Commission for Folk Arts and Folklore, and International Federation of Philosophical Societies. The last named federation was formed in August in Amsterdam during the International Congress of Philosophy, in conformity with Unesco recommendations.

D. International African Institute: Under the terms of a contract with this organization, the first draft of a report concerning plans for research on the native cultures of Africa, has been received.

E. Middle East Cultural Liaison: (see special article on page 2).

III. — Museums

In 1948, Unesco has concentrated on developing and widely publicizing Museum techniques as a means of education; encouraging exchange of exhibitions among Member States: Belgium, China, France, Mexico, Netherlands, U.S.A. (including Hawaii).

The first Biennial Conference of the International Council of Museums (I.C.O.M.) met at Unesco House last June-July. 370 delegates from 29 countries discussed ways the museum profession could help Unesco.

The publication of the quarterly review "Museum" has met with approval.

Unesco Action In the Book Field

DURING the current year, Unesco has carried out the following principal activities in the field of Libraries, Abstracting, Publications and Copyright:

Public Libraries Development

1. The Book Coupon Scheme initiated experimentally this year. China, Czechoslovakia, France, India and the UK have indicated willingness to co-operate.

2. Summer School for Public Librarians held in Manchester and London during September succeeded in increasing awareness of public library service to education and understanding.

3. A survey of low-price book publishing has been made by means of questionnaires, correspondence, interviews and the collection of written materials

Abstracting

As a result of the meeting on scientific abstracting at Unesco House last April, an International Conference on Scientific Abstracting is projected for June 1949.

The first meeting of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee on Medical and Biological Abstracting met at Unesco House in April. WHO and FAO invited to join in sponsoring future meetings.

As a result of this meeting, a co-operative experiment has been undertaken by four abstracting services

Publications

1. **Museum:** first issue (double number) of this new quarterly magazine appeared in July. The second double issue appeared in October. Bi-lingual English and French.

2. **Digest of Human Rights:** French and English texts of the volume of essays on the Philosophical principles of human rights have been completed. Jacques Maritain has written introduction. Negotiations for publication in English, French and other languages is being sought.

3. **A Bibliography of Creative Writing under Axis Occupation** has been prepared from material collected in 1947 from Member States through National Commissions and other agencies.

COPYRIGHT

The comparative and critical study of copyright problems continued this year. First issue of Copyright Information Bulletin appeared in English-French.

Dr. Huxley On "The Advance of World Civilization"

(Continued from Page 1)

We are not operating in any sense as agents of the Allied Authorities (though always with their agreement and co-operation), but as an international non-political organization; and it is clear that such an organization will have a much greater possibility of success in any "re-education" of Germany than could be expected by an occupuing Power.

"Advance of World Civilization"

A year ago I was thinking in term of a general Unesco philosophy, and of its gradual building up over a comparatively long period. Today, while still believing that this might and probably should eventually be undertaken, I now feel that we should search for a single unifying idea, and that we should make this an immediate task.

I would like to throw out the suggestion that for the purpose of a unifying and general appeal, the underlying idea behind all Unesco's activities can best be expressed in the five words "The Advance of Word Civilization", "Civilization **because civilization implies peace, and is indeed in essence the technique of peaceful living;** World civilization **because peace must be global, and because civilization confined to one section of humanity is not compatible with Unesco's constitution, and is indeed provocative of violence and war;** advance of world civilization **because world civilization is in its infancy, and because we need the dynami appeal of a distant and ever-receding goal.**

This idea of the promotion of civilization on a world basis has in the first place the advantage of being practical and concrete However, vast in scope, however, vague at the edges, it adds up to a series of definite and limited tasks. It introduces no note of ideological theory. Furthermore, it commends itself to the great majority of people, whatever their underlying philosophy. It commends itself immediately to the educated portion of the world's population, and can be readily made intelligible and desirable to the rest.

The advance of civilization can readily be fitted into the broader concept of evolutionary progress, but is quite independent of it, or indeed of any general ideology or philosophy except those which would entirely reject this world for the sake of a self-centred and sterile asceticism.

As with any other general and comprehensive concept, civilization can be defined in various ways and can mean rather different things to different people. There is, however, an area of common agreement. The advance of civilization implies better cultivation of the arts of peace. It implies the advance of knowledge and the exploration of new and more outlets for creative activity and expression.

Mind and Spirit

IT is not for me here to try to formulate a detailed definition which will fit both the facts and Unesco's purpose. That is a matter, it seems to me, for the world's leading thinkers and creative workers to hammer out for Unesco over a period of years.

I would here only throw out the suggestion that the advance of civilization consists essentially, or at least most importantly, in the development of those human activities which can be shared and participated in without being destroyed or quantitatively divided—namely the higher activities of the human mind and spirit. Knowledge is actually multiplied by being shared: a work of art can influence and be enjoyed by an indefinite number of people. For such development of the higher activities of man, there is of course needed an elaborate framework of material things and activities which cannot be shared in the same way: but this, though part of civilization, its machinery rather than its essence, is means rather than end.

The idea of world civilization has a further advantage in that it transcends both nationalism and the limitations of that hopeful offspring of nationalism, internationalism. I use the phrase "internationalism" in the strict sense of collaboration between separate sovereign nations. Nations in our world still claim unrestricted sovereignty, and all existing international organizations are debarred from interfering in the matters of internal concern to their member nations.

In practice, however, this line can rarely be drawn sharply. To mention two out of innumerable possible examples, a nation's educational policy is legally a matter of purely domestic concern; but it may affect external matters, such as mutual understanding with other nations; and a nation's population policy (or equally, its lack of such a policy) may readily become one of the tensions threatening peace.

Unesco is an inter-governmental organization. Accordingly while its purposes are either world purposes (implicitly like peace, or explicitly like promoting the general wetfare of mankind), its very nature puts difficulties in the way of their realization, since the ultimate control of its policy is in the hands of official delegations representing the points of view of separate national governments.

Leaders of Civilization

TO my mind, the best method available for securing any immediate advance in this direction, is for Unesco courageously to delegate an important part of its work to private individuals, chosen not as official delegates of governments, but as leaders of civilizations—outstanding thinkers, artists, writers, men of science, owning their best allegiance not to nations, but to humanity—

representatives not of government departments, but of departments of the human mind.

"We Must Run the Risk"

THERE are, however, certain special fields in which Unesco must begin by bravely delegating the discussion of the question from the official and governmental to the unofficial and individual level, even if it runs the risk of finding that some susceptibilities, including those of some of its own Member Governments, are offended in the process. For if it does not run this risk, it incurs the certainty that little or nothing will be accomplished.

The Economic and Social Council have worked along these lines in regard to the UN Scientific Conference to be held in 1949, on the Conservation and Utilization of the Resources. The Conference is designed to bring out the scientific and technical aspects of the subject, as far as possible removed from purely national interest, in the hope that the illumination and the rational motives thus provided may influence possible later official action. Such a method, I suggest, will be even more necessary if we are to deal with the problem of world population.

In fact I do not believe that it be brought on to the international stage at all unless it were previously made a matter of public world concern; and there is no hope of effecting this except by means of a conference of private individuals, free to say what they believe on the basis of the full facts, and to arrive at any conclusions they liked without being tied by official instructions or susceptibilities or by purely national interests.

A New Interpretation of Life

INDEED, we may go further, and say that the advance of world civilization in the immediate future depends upon the emergence of a new interpretation of life, which would provide the basis for the driving force of belief and for its realization in action. Such an interpretation would have to be in one aspect humanistic, based on the possibilities and the limitations of human nature, including its spiritual and emotional and intellectual as well as its physiological aspects; it would have to be based on scientific knowledge of the universe; and it would have to be dynamic, concentrating on the possibilities of change, not on the status quo, nor yet on a static ideal.

Some such dynamic humanism, some such view of human destiny as the crown and continuation of the cosmic process of evolution, seems necessary to synthesize what is of value in the crowd of warring beliefs and interpretations to be found in the world today, and to provide the spur to fruitful action on a world scale. That Unesco might make a contribution towards some such dynamic synthesis is an inspiring thought.

Value of Personal Contact

A considerable part of my time and energy has been spent in travelling, I having visited no less than 19 countries during the spring and summer, some of them twice. Since I have been with the Organization, I have visited 32 countries, 23 of them Member States, and two protectorates or colonies of a Member State.

This has been of great value to my work for Unesco; indeed I regard travel as an indispensable part of the duties of the high officials of the organization.

Such visits are of importance in making personal contacts with the authorities and leading personalities in the countries concerned, and in bringing home to them that Unesco is a living reality, not merely a remote and shadowy organization operating in far away France.

I should add that this applies not only to visits from highranking officials, but to all official travel and to the influence of representatives in the field, such as the staff of the Field Science Co-operation Offices.

For instance, the representatives of the Reconstruction Department travelling in remote parts of the countries of South and East Asia have noted the deep impression made by their mere presence. Through it the UN and its agencies came alive to the local population, who could feel that they were participating in international life, instead of being distant and neglected objects in a scheme of things run by a mysterious "They" in some far-off and alien region.

Grave Population Problem

I stress the gravity of the world population problem largely, because I have seen the undernourished children of the Marbial Valley in Haiti and the erosion of its hillsides under the pressure of its already excessive but still increasing population, and have realized at first hand the impossibility of relieving that pressure by emigration. It is because I have seen the general low standard of life in the inhabitants of countries like Tunisia and of Egypt, where the population has doubled in approximately one generation.

To see with one's own eyes erosion, as in West Africa and the southern U.S.A. and Haiti; the effects of deforestation, as in Mexico and North Africa and the Middle East, the low state of general health in the poorer people of Latin America and the Moslem world;—to see such things is to realize forcibly that Fundamental Education must always be concerned as much with teaching people how to raise their standard of life as with education in the narrower sense, and that Unesco in all such ventures cannot hope for success unless it works in the closest co-operation with its sister agencies, FAO and WHO.

Discrimination

I have talked personally with representatives of the hundreds of University teachers who have been dismissed or driven to resign in various countries; I have heard with my own ears Lysenko lead the now resulted in the dismissal of some of the leading biologists in the USSR, and the strait-jacketing and distorting of one of the most important branches of Science. And such experiences have brought home to me how far the world is from those ideals of freedom of research, thought and expression which are enshrined in Unesco's Constitution.

Again, it is one thing to read about discrimination. It is a much more forcible experience to see it at work in many parts of the world, including, alas, parts of countries whish are States Members of Unesco; or to hear a leading academic personality in Peru maintain that the Indians should not be given educational opportunities because they were, racially and inherently, so inferior as to be uneducable.

On the other hand, I have seen with my own eyes the evidence that this is not so, in the remarkable success of Mr. Truman Bailey in training Peruvian Indians in skilled craftmanship and habits of regular work.

To see this, and the almost complete absence of any social colour-bar in a country like Brazil, and the intelligence and public spirit of many African chiefs and professional men in West Africa, and the wealth of artistic talent, previously unsuspected, that has been elicited among the Haitians by the modest encouragement provided by the Art Centre at Port au Prince, or in Turkey by the mere removal of the traditional ban on representational art, is to be given very real faith in the results which could accrue from a genuine application of non-discriminatory principles.

International Publicity

SUCH facts lead on to the encouraging belief that international publicity is one of the most fruitful methods open to Unesco. If Unesco brings to light the positive successes which have been achieved where discrimination has not been practised, and where the authorities have genuinely believed in equality of opportunity, the facts will confound the forces of reaction.

University Development

IN a more restricted fietd that of University development it is of great value for someone familiar only with European and North American practice to see at first hand university life in other regions. To have Latin-American professors tell you of their duties and their salaries is to realize that the concept of university teaching as many educational systems in the region. To see for oneself how, in eastern Europe and the USSR, an increasing amount of research work is being assigned to the Academies of Science is to realize that the western idea of research being mainly a university function is not the only one possible.

To talk to the staff of one of the Islamic institutions of higher learning attached to the Great Mosques is to realize that in Islamic countries two entirely different conceptions of higher education exist side by side, with little or no correlation.

During my official visit to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, everywhere I went I saw the immense efforts being made in the cultural, scientific and educational fields, as regards not only reconstruction but also new ventures and achievements; I found no barriers between me and my academic colleagues, and in general a great willingness to exchange information with other countries and to co-operate in Unesco projects. Indeed, so far as I could ascertain, barriers to cultural exchange are at least as great between these countries and the USSR, as they are between them and Western Europe.

In the Middle East, I was accompanied by Dr. Raadi who was acting as Consultant on the project of establishing an office of Cultural Co-operation in the region. He and I were equally struck by the general readiness to think in terms of a broad cultural region, embracing Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan as well as the countries of the Arab League, as against the cultural nationalism of single countries or the more insidious temptation of a narrower regionalism based solely on Arabic culture.

The first two years of Unesco's existence have proved that the new organization is viable and healthy, and that a number of practical projects, which could not be undertaken by any other body, lie ready to its hand.

In its second year, Unesco has for one thing achieved a much more satisfactory organization. But what in the long run will be more important, it has begun to glimpse the way towards a central unifying concept, or, to use Monsieur Maritain's phrase, a central principle of practical action, which will serve both to illuminate its path more clearly, and to give added energy to its action.

U. S. Commission Studies "Unesco In A Divided World"

FOR four solid days, 26th-29th September, Boston became the hub of Unesco activities in the United States when the U.S. National Commission for Unesco held its fifth meeting here. The Commission went about its work with remarkable organizational precision, notwithstanding its complex and highly advanced structure. The radio, press and film of the nation responded well and the proceedings of the plenary sessions were filmed and recorded in sound.

While its primary purpose was to examine the proposed programme of Unesco for 1949, to advise the U.S. delegation to the Beirut Conference and to consider implementation of the Unesco programme for the United States, its focal point, which easily caught the imagination of the people, was the theme, "Unesco in a Divided World".

In the public meeting at the crowded Symphony Hall, where this theme was debated, it became clearly evident that the American people want Unesco to press on with its ideals and activities on the practical level, even in the precarious peace of to-day, and without compromising the dignity, respect and freedom of man.

The proposed programme of Unesco for 1949 gained wide support. Further strengthening of the proposals emerged from the six programme sections of the meeting on reconstruction, communications, education, cultural interchange, human and social relations and natural sciences. The Commission came out strongly for a more effective encouragement by Unesco in the establishment and development of national commissions or co-operating bodies in all Member States.

As regards the General Conference, it was the consensus of opinion that after two years of experience the annual adoption of the programme and budget should now be subordinated to discussion of the broader questions of Unesco Policy which will help in marshalling the forces of education, science and culture for world understanding and peace.

It was also suggested that since the achievement of peace is a highly political objective, Unesco might invite world statesmen to participate in the General Conferences in order to further understanding of the relations between political problems and the forces of education, science and culture.

Presiding over the Commission was Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, its Chairman. Dr. Laves, Deputy Director-General of Unesco, participated actively not only in the meetings but also in two coast-to-coast radio broadcasts over CBS and NBC and in the panel discussion at Symphony Hall.

In his address he emphasized that Unesco is now definitely under way, not as an American or European organization, but as a truly international instrument which cuts through and across boundary lines and is already beginning to make itself felt and heard in all parts of the world.

It is concerned, he said, with all of the different kinds of divisions to-day existing in the world and particularly those between Occident and Orient, between Occupied and Unoccupied countries, between Eastern Europe and the rest of the world, and between the less industrialized and more advanced regions.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India visited Unesco House on October 27. The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his wife, was received by the high officials of the Organization who discussed with him some of the educational, scientific and cultural problems of his country. Above: Pandit Nehru is seen with Indian members of the Secretariat during a luncheon given in his honour by Unesco. Left to right: Dr. R. Naidu, Mr. S. Adiseshiah, Mr. S.N. Sen, Pandit Nehru, Mrs. Nehru, Mr. S. Chandrasekhar, Mr. Das Gupta and Mr. B. Dhingra.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARAB THOUGHT

Taha Hussein

(Continued from page 3)

But how much more so, since it also allows philosophers and artists, men of science and literature to meet and work together despite the great distances which separate them. In this way, it seems to me, Unesco aids world civilization and progress, giving them a scope, depth and universality which they have never known before.

There is yet another point which we of the Arab World should remember and the value of which we should appreciate: that is, that the modern world has emphasized the differences between Orient and West, and neither politics nor economics have ever succeeded in bridging the gulf between them.

Knowledge and culture, however, cannot fail, because they know neither Orient nor West. They know only the Human Being, wherever he may be. No better proof of this can be found than the distinguished men of knowledge and culture coming from the West who will attend the meetings in Beirut with understanding for the culture of the Orient, co-operating with us and inviting us to a loyal and honest collaboration.

Here, then, is the salute of the West offered to the Orient, sincere and disinterested: a salute, worthy of being joyfully received and truly appreciated by the Arab World, more especially as the Arab World is influenced by the civility of the Koran which says: "If you are saluted, answer the salute by a better one or return it similarly."

(Translated from the Arabic).

Arab Literature

(Continued from page 3)

A Cairo review, al-Kitab, in its January 1948 issue, gives approximate figures for the literary and scientific output of the Arab countries in 1947; the following figures relate to literature in Egypt alone:

History of Literature and Criticism, 450; Collections of modern poems ("Divans"), 10; Collections of ancient poems in popular Arabic, 13; Novels and plays, 80; Literary biographies, 53.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, has recommended that Unesco make accessible in all languages the outstanding works of each culture.

Dr Charles Malik, President of the Economic and Social Council, has advocated that, to begin with, these measures should be applied to the Arab countries. He no doubt realized that the West was dangerously ignorant of the great works of Arab literature and that this was an underlying cause of misunderstanding and distrust between the two cultures.

As part of its Translation of Great Books programme, Unesco has been attempting to determine those classics which should be translated from Arabic into European languages and the Western classics to be translated into Arabic.

Turkish National Commission Meets

The Turkish National Commission for Unesco (Unesco Turk Milli Komisyonu) held its first meeting on 9 September, 1948, under the Chairmanship of Professor Hamdi Akverdi, the Director-General of Higher Education.

The following are the first nine members to be appointed :

Professor Hamdi Akverdi, President of the Commission, is the Director-General of Higher Education.

Professor Orhan Alisbah, Professor at Ankara University.

Professor Renizi Oguz Arik, Historian and Professor of History at Ankara University.

Professor Fuat Baymur, Professor of Pedagogy, Ankara University.

Dr. Emin Bilgic, Archeologist, Professor at Ankara University and President of the Commission for the Protection of Historical Monuments.

Professor Irfan Sahinbas, Professor of English Literature at Ankara University.

Mr. A. Kutsi Tecer, Director-General of Fine Arts at the Ministry of National Education at Ankara.

Professor Bedrettin Tuncel, Professor of French Literature at Ankara.

MacArthur Accepts Unesco Programme in Japan

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, the Supreme Commander suggested that Unesco serve as the agency to encourage the exchange of scientific, educational and cultural publications between Japan and other countries. He also recommended that, in view of the financial difficulties which today face Japanese students wishing to study abroad, Unesco undertake to make known existing fellowships and scholarships for which Japanese may be eligible.

It was pointed out to Dr. Kuo that Japanese desiring to go abroad for educational and cultural purposes required sponsors who could guarantee their total expenses while away from their country.

General MacArthur also pointed out the desirability for SCAP representatives and selected Japanese experts to attend, as observers, sessions of Unesco's General Conference, certain technical conferences (particularly those concerned with textbook revision), seminars, etc. He suggested to Dr. Kuo that SCAP might furnish Unesco with information on Japanese textbook revision and that Unesco in turn inform SCAP of progress made in developing criteria for textbook reform.

At the end of this meeting, General MacArthur told Dr. Kuo that the Japanese people, with SCAP assistance, have undertaken a nation-wide programme of educational, scientific and cultural activity which is in harmony with the aims and purposes of Unesco. Working through Unesco, the Supreme Commander said, SCAP might encourage those activities by continued manifestation of interest and by the extension to Japan of special assistance in certain areas and projects.

During his ten-day stay in Japan, Dr. Kuo met with the heads of various sections of General MacArthur's staff including Civil Information and Education; Public Health and Welfare; Economic and Scientific; Natural Resources; Civil Communications; Diplomatic and Government. He also held conferences with Japanese Civil Authorities which had been arranged for him by SCAP.

AN INDIAN VIEW

The Place of Women In Unesco

The article printed below is reproduced from the "Behar Herald," Patna, India.

THE Charter of Unesco states that the purpose of the Organization will be realized by giving fresh impulse to popular education and the spread of culture by instituting collaboration amongst the nations to advance the idea of equality of educational opportunity without regard to race, sex or any distinction, economic or social.

By **Rajkumari Amrit Kaur**

It is of vital importance that the intention to provide equality of opportunity for girls and women, expressed with equal forcefulness in the Education Plan for India, should be implemented, and not remain a vague and unrealized assertion.

The first educational efforts in all countries have invariably been devoted to the male child in the mistaken belief that the girl child could pick up all that was necessary to make for an economically and biologically useful member of the community. Economic usefulness was considered to be the preparation of food and the making of clothing, with manual asistance of varying intensity with the cattle and in the fields; biological usefulness consisted in the provision of children to maintain the race, along with incidental assistance in gaining the common livelihood.

No one will deny that the greatest influence on the child, and hence on the succeeding generation derives from the mother, nor that woman's true vocation, settled biologically from the dawn of time, is motherhood. Yet it is only comparatively recently that recognition has been given to the fact that the uneducated mother can do the greatest harm to our children through her own ignorance, and hence can do the greatest harm to the race. Even woman's great function as a spiritual guide is vitiated by ignorance and it follows that that deep religious belief which inspires and stirs the noblest sentiments cannot be imparted effectually.

Discrimination

We in India are very conscious of discrimination in education between the sexes. Our women today are steeped in ignorance and poverty. But it must at the same time be admitted that the general attitude to women's education can only be described as lukewarm. It is the relatively small handful of educated women in India who must act as pioneers in their own land. Further, they must join with Unesco and look to the help and support of women of other lands for the proper education of children all over the world.

It is the mothers in all lands who suffer from the doctrine that might is right on which the world has rested so far, and, in their millions they not only see their children slaughtered and maimed but sense their children's failure to learn from the past. If wars are to be prevented, coming generations must be imbued with the conception of their futility, and the children, from their earliest years, must be filled with a passionate love of mankind as God's creation for His purposes, not for destruction but for the glory of living.

The family is the social unit and it is the mother who has to provide the atmosphere in the home which fosters, virtue, the spirit of service and sacrifice, the true understanding of charity, the belief in the dignity of labour and, above all, tolerance that knows no distinction of caste race and creed.

Women without education can play but a small part in moulding the future generation, and I would be tempted today to say that in my country the education of girls should take precedence in all schemes of educational development over the education of boys until such time as the lag in girls' education has been overcome. Women must be in Unesco and the instruments organized to achieve its aims to ensure that the essential opportunities to learn are provided and, furthermore, provided in the right way.

Duty for Women

In the spread of scientific knowledge there is an essential duty for women. Here everything possible must be done to ensure that scientific advances shall be directed to the benefit and not to the destruction of mankind. In the two wars in the lifetime of this generation science has, to its everlasting shame, been harnessed to the destruction of life and its very foundations.

Apart from the immediate effect in killed and wounded, it is still bringing about the deaths of millions in all parts of the world with the exception of the few favoured nations who have apparently remained untouched; and the end to misery, starvation and death is not yet in sight. The motherhood of the world must lift its voice to heaven and say "Never again shall this be done to our sons and our daughters" and this voice must be ably represented in all national and international councils.

Representation, however able it may be, will be of little value unless women can unite in their determination that there shall be understanding amongst all peoples, races and creeds. They have the common bond of endurance and suffering, which are the badge, so to speak, of womanhood.

Women are in particular the repositories of their national culture and of spiritual understanding. In these things, neither race nor creed discriminates. But women must be active in the expression of their determination. They must steadfastly refuse to co-operate in all that makes for war and must inculcate their ideals in their children from their earliest years so that the generation to come may live in the reality of peace.

A Lebanese Speaks Out :

"Conditions of Intellectual Activity In the Arab World"

By
Dr. Charles MALIK,
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Lebanon in the U.S.A., President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and Chairman of the Committee of the UN General Assembly for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs.

THAT Unesco is holding its conference in the Lebanon this year is no insignificant event; and it is necessary, I think for us to consider the full meaning of this fact.

It means that the Arab world is no longer a mere geographical expression, or nothing more than an important strategical point or a fertile field for colonial exploitation; no longer do the people of this region seem confined within its boundaries, and isolated from the intellectual activities and the history of the world.

A Lebanese mountain shepherd.

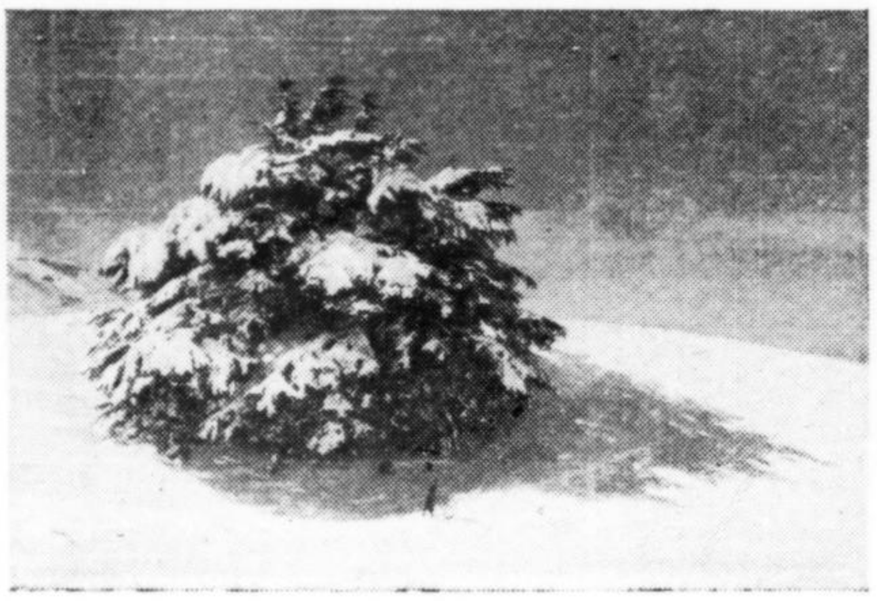
The coming to the Lebanon of this nigh international Organization for Education, Science and Culture, shows that the Arab world, and more generally, the Middle East, are gradually coming out of their deep mental isolation, trying to study the problems with which they are faced and the possibilities which lie before them. It shows that they are trying also to respond to the daring example given them by other nations and peoples, and to become fit for cultural exchanges and collaboration based on total mutual respect.

It shows moreover, that the world has begun to believe in the great importance and possibilities of the Arab people. As for the Lebanon, the coming of Unesco to its territory shows that the important position of this country both in the Western and in the Arab world is a clear reality which lays upon it a positive international mission that it must modestly prepare and lovingly fulfil.

I say that we are gradually coming out of our mental isolation, and in our present state, it is difficult and even impossible to say more. In order really to escape from this isolation, to realize thoroughly our importance and possibilities and to play an active part in the great world pageant of thought, in order that our judgment may be valued and our opinions respected in Helsinki, Bordeaux, Boston, Buenos Aires, Sydney, Minsk or Cape Town, there are seven conditions which we must fulfil, and these are the conditions of the existence of our mental activity.

I. A complete and fundamental reform of our social and economic principles

I can confidently assert that our opinion will never be respected, nor will our judgment be valued so long as the majority of the people in the Arab countries have insufficient social and economic rights. This state of affairs is most prejudicial to us, as I myself have been compelled to feel, time and again, when dealing with international affairs. These facts are there, to be seen and faced with the necessary courage and decision.



The Cedar, national emblem of the Lebanon, in a winter setting.

II. The complete emancipation of women and the normalizing of the emotions

This is an essential part of social reform, for so long as we do not consider women as a human entity in their own right and so long as the emotional side of our being is unsettled, the mental side also will have neither order nor stability. In history, with a few exceptions which cannot be taken as a standard, we find that it is impossible for a nation to produce anything in the realms of intellect and culture, unless its emotional side, fundamentally, is first normalized. The choice then remains between keeping apart from any intellectual and cultural movement and preserving emotional disorder, or taking an active part in those movements after mastering those emotions.

III. The preservation of our true cultural heritage

This means that we must distinguish clearly between what is positive and what is negative, what is true and what is false, and this distinction is the touchstone by which we will test our judgment. As this touchstone shall truly reveal all that is false, so shall we discard these false things readily and with a true heart. Thus, and thus only, shall we be able to benefit fully from our true cultural heritage.

IV. The translation of the classics into Arabic

If the Arabic mind is steeped in Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Akwini, Ibn Rushd, Al-Faraby, Galal-Eddine Elroumi, Ibn Khaldoun, Hegel, Dostoievsky, Nietzsche, Tolstoy and other great thinkers; if the Arabic mind studies deeply the practical application of experimental science, and, consequently, seeks to pierce mysteries of nature, then the Arab world will be able, before the close of the 20th century, to create and express something new which will have repercussions in Helsinki and Cape Town. But if it remains a stranger to these accumulated riches, I do not see when it will take a serious place in the intellectual world.

V. Freedom of Thought and Conscience

To desire truth and to find it, to adopt it and change our mental outlook accordingly; to gain further freedom with each new discovery of truth: that is the most important principle of any responsible mental activity. For any objective intellectual development there is one indispensable condition: that our society and our governement should guarantee the responsible use of freedom in the expression of personal opinions and beliefs in science, art, philosophy and religion. But if our real being is not entirely known to us and if our attitude deprives us of this knowledge or of the free expression of it, then I do not see how we can ever attain true intellectual activity. The condition of this intellectual activity is that it must be at the same time a substance and a form and not always a substance for another form.

The famous ruins of Baalbek, northeast of Beirut.

VI. The Disinterested Pursuit of Truth.

As long as we shall consider that the greatest catastrophe of our existence is our failure in spheres of practical interest: commercial, material, literary or political, our voice will never make itself heard in the "temples" of pure intellect.

Science did not grow and progress, sublime art did not flourish, nor philosophy impose itself except by disinterested research and thought. He who believes in something objective and real, outside his own self, and who trusts in the possibility of attaining it; he who desires above all else to arrive at this point, who will impose upon himself absolute privation for its sake, to whom the joy of intellectual vision is a greater satisfaction than any pleasure or profit; he who aspires to free, conscious, logical and analytical thought, he alone will have a lasting place in intellectual life. But he who demands profit from all things, will be deprived of both the things and the profit.

Two typical Druze gentlemen of the Lebanon.

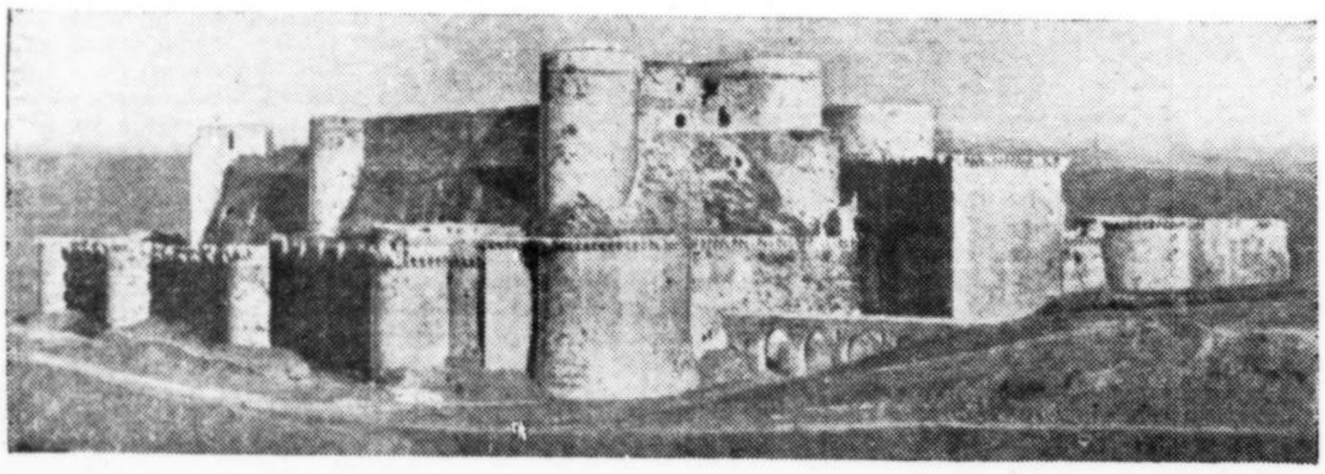
VII. Close collaboration between leading thinkers

Intellectual activity implies a living and unfettered exchange among the enlightened spirits of the age. Seclusion and isolation have never produced any responsible thinkers. If we wish reason to flourish and develop in the Arab World, then all great thinkers should co-operate and work together for the common good. If this union were surrounded by an atmosphere of freedom and understanding, with the search for truth as its aim, and if there were far-sighted sympathisers ready to offer it all material necessities, and if it remains in constant contact with practical life and its responsibilities, never shrinking or drawing back, then we can say that reason has at last come and that it may perhaps stay.

In order that it may stay, and be established on sound foundations, this Arabic intellectual unity must maintain contact with other intellectual circles throughout the world, with universities and cultural institutions, in a spirit of noble modesty ready to accept the plain truth. The most important condition is that great thinkers in the Arab world should know each other and be united in genuine friendship, the spirit of which is love, and the framework hopeful patience. Then what heights cannot be attained and what hidden lights cannot be revealed ?

There may be some scoffers who do not believe in the possibility of the Arab world, realizing these conditions, and, as a result, do not believe in intellectual activity for the Arab world. Great may be their number. But all these conditions, I am convinced, are quite easy to fulfil. I affirm that the future is for him who believes in the possibility of their realization. It may be that we are already on the threshold of all this, and that we know it not.

(Translated from the Arabic)



The "Krak des Chevaliers", ancient Lebanese fortress, dating from the period of the Crusaders.

Editorial Offices : Unesco, 19, Avenue Kléber, Paris (16e).
Editor : S.M. KOFFLER. Director : H. KAPLAN.

All Reproductions Authorized

IMPRIMERIE DU "NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE", 21, Rue de Berri, Paris (8e).
Unesco Publication 222